

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

RELIGION OR DENOMINATION?

It is incorrect to imply that different Christian denominations are different religions. On the whole they share the same scriptures and the same core beliefs. Many denominations exist mainly because they emerged in different parts of the world at a time when travel and communication was slow and difficult. (Anglicans emerged in England, Presbyterians in Scotland, Lutherans in Germany, Church of Christ in USA etc.). These days, Christians, and even clergy, move readily between denominations but would not think they are changing religions. Personally I have done work² for many of these denominations³ but I have not changed religion in doing so.

¹ I'm working off my memory and don't have a record of the census document as I answered the census on-line but I write this from my memory of the questions.

³ Probably a dozen or more.

attend church or not as some people don't attend but are committed Christians, while others do attend but are not Christians.

To explore how serious people are about observance of their nominated religion, a follow-up question could ask: *Typically, how often do you engage in some faith based activity? E.g. pray, meditate, read scriptures or religious literature, attend a place of worship, or help others out of religious motivation.*

- *Daily*
- *Weekly*
- *Monthly*
- *Annually*
- *Rarely*
- *Never*

Please give my thoughts some consideration. I think this would lead to more accurate findings on the census.

Yours faithfully,

